

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were examined in the April 19, 2004 office action. In that action, claims 19 and 20 were found allowable because of the limitations in claim 19, i.e., the input digital signal being an audio signal conforming to the Direct Stream Digital standard and the encoding step including Direct Stream Transfer coding. The foregoing amendment cancels claim 19 and includes its limitations in claim 1, on which claim 19 depended. Corresponding amendments were made in independent claims 5, 9, and 13 to include the subject matter of claim 19, and it is respectfully submitted that they are allowable for the same reasons claim 19 was found allowable. In addition, because claims 5 and 13 are directed to decoding of signals of the type specified in claim 19, for clarity they also have been amended to specify the decoding step or means as Direct Stream Transfer decoding or decoding means. This is disclosed, *inter alia*, at page 5 lines 20-24 of the specification.

The foregoing amendment also corrects a typographical error in claim 12 and amends claim 20 to preserve its proper dependency.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendment renders the application allowable, for the reasons stated in the reasons for indication of allowable subject matter. Entry of the amendment is requested, and a notice of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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